

REMARKS

The Advisory Action dated November 9, 2005 and the Office Action dated August 9, 2005 have been received and carefully studied.

A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith. It directs the entry of the Amendment After Final filed on October 14, 2005 (and entered in the PTO records on November 3, 2005).

The Examiner newly rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vits, U.S. Patent No. 4,308,984.

By the accompanying amendment, claim 1 has been amended to clarify what is meant by the term "discharge slot" and the relative location of the web support surfaces. To that end, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the second discharge slot has a discharge opening. Support for the amendment can be found at page 8, lines 11-12 and in Figure 1, for example. The amended language now makes it clear that the second web support surface is downstream of the secondary discharge slot opening in the direction of web travel.

The Examiner states that the Vits air foil has a primary slot 8 and a second discharge slot 3 spaced and stepped down from the primary slot. The Examiner further

states that Vits discloses a second web support surface (above 3) downstream of the secondary discharge slot in the direction of web travel, apparently interpreting the term "discharge slot" as including the internal structure of the housing that leads to the opening, thereby construing the piece of metal in Figure 1 of Vits above the element 3 to be a web support surface. In view of the accompanying amendment, the surface above 3 relied upon by the Examiner as the second web support surface is not downstream of the secondary discharge slot opening in the direction of web travel as now required by the instant claims; it defines the secondary discharge slot 3 and is upstream of both the secondary discharge slot 3 and the primary discharge slot 8. Accordingly, it is believed that the amendment overcomes the rejection.

The Examiner rejects claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vits, U.S. Patent No. 3,763,571.

By the amendment after final that is now being entered in view of the filing of the RCE, the limitations of claim 15 were incorporated into claim 12 (renumbered as claim 11). It is believed that the amendment overcomes the rejection.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully
requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,


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